

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1634

EXDIS

SECTO 26

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, XM

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PERUVIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER

1. THE SECRETARY HAD A RELAXED AND FRIENDLY 35 MINUTE
CONVERSATION WITH PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MIGUEL ANGEL
DE LA FLOR EVENING OF FEBRUARY 20. SECRETARY WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND LEGAL ADVISER MAW.
FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
LUIS MARCHAND.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST RAISED DURING
CONVERSATION:

A. DE LA FLOR REITERATED INVITATION FOR SECRETARY TO VIST
PERU. SECRETARY ACCEPTED, STATING THAT PERU WOULD BE AMONG
FIRST COUNTRIES THAT HE HOPES TO VISIT IN COURSE OF 4-5
COUNTRY TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA (TIMING INDEFINITE, BUT
HOPEFULLY DURING THE SPRING).

B. DE LA FLOR EMPHASIZED THAT LATINS PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE
ON WHAT SECRETARY WILL SAY DURING PRESENT CONFERENCE.
SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT HE COMES WITH EXPECTATION AND
DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED, ALTHOUGH U.S. CANNOT SATISFY
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ALL LA DEMANDS; HE WOULD NOT PROMISE ANYTHING HE COULD NOT
DELIVER. SECRETARY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT HE BROUGHT WITH
HIM ONE OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING U.S. DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND

SUCH A CONFERENCE IN YEARS.

C. DE LA FLOR STATED THAT PERU'S POLICY HAS NEVER BEEN ONE OF CONFRONTATION OR FRICTION VIS-A-VIS THE U.S.; RATHER, IT IS REALISTIC, NON-VIOLENT ATTITUDE OF A PEOPLE IN TRANSITION. WHEN POLICY DIFFERENCES OCCUR, PERU WILL ALWAYS BE FRANK, SINCERE AND FRIENDLY. AT THIS POINT, SECRETARY INTERJECTED "AND TOUGH". DE LA FLOR RESPONDED BY READING MOTTO HANDED HIM BY MARCHAND: "MENTAL COLONIALISM IS AS DANGEROUS AS IMPERIALISM". SECRETARY MADE POINT THAT AS U.S. MOVES FROM DOMINATION TO COOPERATION, WE DO SO NOT AS A FAVOR, BUT OUT OF ENLIGHTENED SELF INTEREST.

D. SECRETARY STATED THAT AFTER STUDY OF PERUVIAN POSITION ON ECONOMIC COERCION, HE HAD TO BE FRANK IN STATING THAT USG COULD NOT AGREE FULLY WITH THAT STANCE. SECRETARY PROMISED THAT HE WOULD MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW FUTURE DISPUTES MIGHT BE BETTER HANDLED. AT SAME TIME, HE ASKED THAT PERUVIANS EXAMINE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE ARE MOVING AS WELL AS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. DE LA FLOR NOTED THAT CHANGING RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION IS OUT OF THE SECRETARY'S HANDS. PERUVIANS WOULD WELCOME A SINCERE AND CONVINCING EXPRESSION OF SECRETARY'S COMPREHENSION OF THEIR POSITION AND OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ELIMINATE OBSTACLES.

E. DE LA FLOR REFERRED TO RECENT AGREEMENT (GREENE MISSION) AS AUGURY FOR IMPROVED U.S.-PERUVIAN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, CERTAIN POINTS STILL ENDANGER EVEN BETTER RELATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, ON TUNA PROBLEM, HE REFERRED TO PELLY AMENDMENT. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY, HE WOULD MAKE SURE THAT EXISTING LAWS WOULD BE APPLIED IN MOST FLEXIBLE MANNER, THEREBY REFLECTING POSITIVE NEW BASIS ON WHICH U.S.-LATIN RELATIONS BEING BUILT. HE FURTHER STATED THAT OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME HE WOULD SEEK TO ALLEVIATE LEGAL OBSTACLES.

F. DE LA FLOR REFERRED TO PERUVIAN PLAN FOR COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY, STATING THAT ON ISSUES SUCH AS PRESENT SCARCITY OF
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RAW MATERIALS, THERE NEEDS TO BE A PROCESS OF MEETING, REVIEWING PROBLEM AND ARRIVING AT A POSITION WHICH GIVES FULL WEIGHT TO L.A. VIEWS. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT IN ORDER TO SOLVE FORESEEABLE PROBLEMS, CONSULTATION IS NECESSARY. AT THE SAME TIME WE DIFFER WITH PERUVIANS IN THEIR INSISTENCE THAT USG HAS A LEGAL OBLIGATION, RATHER THAN A VOLUNTARY WILL IN SEEKING TO SOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. DE LA FLOR STATED THAT WHILE PERU DID NOT INTEND TO DEFINE PRECISE OBLIGATIONS, US DOES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY. SECRETARY AGREED THAT WE HAVE A MORAL, ALTHOUGH NOT A LEGAL, OBLIGATION. DE LA FLOR STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT USG AT LEAST WOULD REFRAIN FROM TAKING MEASURES

WHICH MIGHT RETARD DEVELOPMENT. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT US MUST MAKE A LONG-TERM, SYSTEMATIC CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT.

G. DE LA FLOR ASKED THE SECRETARY IF HE WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON CUBA. SECRETARY REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, STATING THAT INTERJECTION OF THIS QUESTION INTO CURRENT DISCUSSION WOULD LEAD TO U.S. DOMESTIC DEBATE ON THE WRONG ISSUE. WHILE HE DID NOT EXPECT OR WANT TO CHANGE DE LA FLOR'S OPINION ON CUBA, HE HOPED DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER COULD BE DEFERRED TO A LATER MEETING.

H. FINALLY, DE LA FLOR REFERRED WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM TO SECRETARY'S USE OF PHRASE "CONVEVENCIA PACIFICA" WHICH PERUVIAN OFFICIALS SEE AS SUCCINCTLY POINTING DIRECTION TOWARDS MEANINGFUL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT. KISSINGER

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